

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Piedras Blancas Light Station Tours to Begin Later This Month

SAN SIMEON – The historic Piedras Blancas Light Station will offer limited public tours beginning later in June. The historic site, located near San Simeon along California's central coast, will be open to the public for the first time since it was built in 1875.

The tours trial period will begin late in June and will continue through February 2004. All tours will be led by interpretive specialists from Hearst Castle®, the Bureau of Land Management, or the light station's volunteer organization. Tours will be by reservation only and will originate from the Hearst Castle® visitor center. Information on how to make reservations will be available soon.

These first-time tours are the result of a negotiated agreement among a number of key partners dedicated to preserve the light station and its important biological, historic, and scientific features. The agreement is part of a much larger effort to preserve not only the light station, but also the entire 82,000-acre Hearst Ranch, which surrounds the station and Hearst Castle®, the most heavily visited state park in California with over one million visitors annually.

Kirk Sturm, California State Parks' Northern Division Chief, said he considers the "light station and BLM to be full partners with State Parks in providing Californians and visitors from throughout the world a chance to experience this important part of state history."

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